



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018 | 9 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 200



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Kenneth McFadden gets dumped under the watchful eye of volunteers in the calf-riding event Monday at the Lil' Spurs Rodeo. Below, Holden Pezley and Cheyanna Turbin were named the 2018 Tri-State Rodeo's All-Around Cowboy and Lil' Miss Rodeo during Monday night's ceremonies.

Little spurs have day at rodeo

Morning showers and humidity that followed does little to dampen spirits of Lil' Spurs Rodeo

**BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Scott Fedler can remember riding a sheep out a chute and onto the soft dirt of C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena when he was a boy. Now, as chairman of the Tri-State Rodeo's wildly popular Lil' Spurs Rodeo, he gets to keep reliving the event through other area children.

But Fedler, standing at about 6'-6", a far cry from the eight-year-old boy laying across the back of a running sheep decades ago, says the event is totally about the kids.

"Not just Lil' Spurs, but the Special Kids Rodeo too. It's a scenario where you see the community pull together for the pre-rodeo for all the families and kids that may not have the ability to do those things themselves," he said. "You see the community pull together for that, and that to me is rodeo - aside from the actual rodeo"

A rain shower that rolled in just after the day's events got rolling sent a lot of people looking for cover, and



CINCH Shoot-Out Wednesday night

Tickets still available for Wednesday's wildly popular Cinch Shootout where PRCA professionals compete for more than \$100K in prize money

Fedler said that may have hurt attendance just a little.

"It was a great day overall," Fedler said. "For mutton bustin' we're always a full unit and that's to be expected. For calf riders we were probably about an average year. The rain kinda killed off people that would normally come, both spectators and participants."

He said it packed the house before the short-lived rain entered the area, and then the humidity sent in.

See **YOUTH**, page 8

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Storm rocked Mt. Pleasant, but Empty Nest intact

I always knew Ginnie was a special woman, but this is ridiculous!

We were leaving the movie theater in Burlington. I had taken Ginnie to "Crazy Rich Asians" for her birthday (excellent movie) and we were headed for dinner at Burlington's finest restaurant overlooking the Mississippi. I checked my smart phone for messages and there were three severe storm warnings for Mt. Pleasant. The sun was shining and the pavement bone dry in Burlington. I took a look at the radar and it looked like someone threw up on the screen. Uh, oh. There was only one thing to do—continue on to dinner.

For an appetizer, I ordered fresh calamari. Ginnie crinkled her nose, "Eww," but snarfed down her share. We watched in awe as a tug, pushing four barges, navigated BNSF's draw bridge. After chicken bruschetta for Ginnie and fresh sea bass for me and, oh yes, killer chocolate birthday cake, we headed home, high on sugar and chocolate.

We could see lightening to the west, the direction we were headed. For the heck of it, I called my son in Mt. Pleasant to see if it had rained.

"Go back!" he hollered in the phone. "The power's off, trees and power lines are down, it's a mess here! Just turn around and go back, you might not make it!"

We continued on. Highway Patrol cars passed us, heading in the direction of Mt. Pleasant. We kept going. I had failed to shut the chickens up before we left.

The rain and wind started clobbering us before we were halfway home. The windshield wipers could barely keep up. The car was trying to hydroplane. Ginnie kept telling me to slow down. I noticed there were no lights on in the farm homes we were passing.

As we approached the Empty Nest Farm, there was no yard light to direct our path. I found our driveway, and headed for the garage, wind and rain rocking the car.

With the power off, the electric garage-door opener wouldn't function. Thankfully, I had brought a hooded

See **SWARM**, page 5

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

WYMAN EARL LOREY

Wyman Earl Lorey, 71 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Sunday, September 2, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison. He was born November 3, 1946 at Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Wyman E. and Julia C. (Fields) Bernhardt. His adopted parents were Charles H. and Mary E. (Hiscocks) Lorey.



LOREY

He was a veteran of the U.S. Marines serving in the Vietnam War. He worked for various factories and later worked in the restaurant business. He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and camping. He also was a caretaker at the Indian Lake Park for a season.

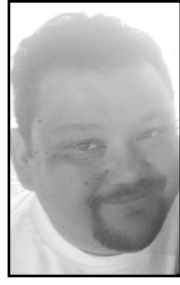


He is survived by his two brothers: George (wife Donna) Bernhardt, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Warren E. Lorey, of Iowa; one sister, Dixie Lee (husband Chuck) Geseck, of Colorado and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his adoptive parents.

Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. A graveside service and burial with full military rites will be held at 10:00 am Thursday, September 6, 2018 at the Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison, Iowa. Pastor Les Featheringill will officiate. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

JOSE "JOE" S. DIAZ, JR.

Jose "Joe" S. Diaz, Jr., 45, of New London, IA and formerly of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 1:56 a.m. on Thursday, August 30, 2018 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, IA. He was born on October 13, 1972 in Fort Madison, IA to Jose S. & Shirley A. Crull Diaz, Sr. He was a 1991 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He married Jessica L. Andrews on September 19, 2016 on the riverfront in Fort Madison, IA. He was a diesel mechanic for Wal Mart Transportation in Mt. Pleasant, IA for 21 years. He was a member of Tri-State Gun Club for 17 years and was an NRA Pistol Instructor. He enjoyed the Dallas Cowboys, Chicago Bulls, vintage 1980's comic books and was a Superman fanatic.



DIAZ

Joe is survived by: his wife: Jessica Diaz of New London, IA; 2-sons: Jordan (Kelsey Skender) Diaz of Mt. Pleasant, IA & Jonah Diaz of New London, IA; 1-grandson: James Diaz of Mt. Pleasant, IA; 1-sister: Debra Ratzlaff of Fort Madison, IA; 2-brothers: Russell Diaz of Newton, KS & Robert (Tammy) Diaz of Mound Ridge, KS; his mother in law: Sandra Andrews of West Point, IA; 1-brother in law: Joshua (Stephanie Kisor) Andrews of Fort Madison, IA; numerous nieces & nephews who were like brothers & sisters and a child to Joe. He was preceded in death by: his parents, his grandparents: Carlos & Ejinia Diaz & Clifford & Mary Crull and his father in law: Randy Andrews.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 3, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Scott White officiating. Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison, IA. A memorial has been established in Joe's memory. Online condolences to Joe's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Relay For Life of North Lee County

Friday, September 14th
5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

@ the Fort Madison High School Track

- 5:00 PM Team Registration & Set up
- Survivor Registration
- Survivor Reception
- Relay For Life BBQ
- 6:30 PM Opening Ceremony
- 8:30 PM Luminaria Ceremony
- 9:30 PM Pizza Party
- 10:30 PM Fight Back Closing Ceremony



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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



9/3
27 40 43 44 47
Lucky Ball: 3



9/3 MID-DAY
6 2 9
9/3 EVENING
1 2 7



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8 7 0 9
9/3 EVENING
3 8 8 0

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Founded in 2016



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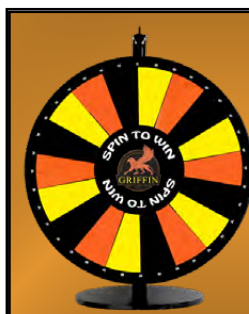


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Obituaries

LAWRENCE EUGENE “LARRY” KNOCHE

Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Knoche, 89, of the Kensington in Fort Madison, Iowa, formerly of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 2:25 p.m. Monday, September 3, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.



KNOCHE

Born on November 21, 1928, in Peoria, Illinois, the son of Fred Christ and Grace Elizabeth (Huddleston) Knoche. On February 19, 1951, he married Lois Mae Gerhardt at the Appanoose Faith Presbyterian Church in rural Niota, Illinois. She preceded him in death on August 19, 2015.

Survivors include one son: Donald (Sheila) Knoche of Arcadia, Florida; one daughter: Barbara (Donald) Schafer of Nauvoo, Illinois; four grandchildren: Brad Schafer, Brenda Schafer, Katherine McGuigan and Donnie Knoche; nine great grandchildren: Walden, Owen and Alexander Schafer, Chloe and Adalyn Knoche, Tori McGuigan, Camden Knoche and Meghan and Michael McGuigan. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, special Knoche cousins and special friend: Betty Mead.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife: Lois and one infant grandchild. Larry had an infectious laugh and smile and his ornery streak was known by all. When Larry was not teasing others, he was always willing to lend a hand if anyone needed it. Larry and Lois celebrated sixty-five years of marriage and their love for one another was well known. He was a devoted member of the Nauvoo First Presbyterian Church and served as Elder and Trustee. Larry was proud to be a member of the Nauvoo Fire Department for twenty-nine years and served as Trustee and Treasurer. Larry also served on the Nauvoo-Colusa School Board and was a 4-H Leader.

Larry attended Western Illinois University and began life as a dairy farmer in Peoria, before moving to Nauvoo where he farmed with his father-in-law Joyce Gerhardt. Larry loved growing flowers in his yard for passerbyers to enjoy. For many years he shared his love for woodworking with everyone and to this day, his works of art are treasured by many. He and Lois loved to travel, especially to visit their grandchildren. They square danced with the Circle Square Bs, were members of a local card club and Larry was an official “Charter” member of the Dottie’s Coffee Gang. He started the yearly tradition of the Knoche cousin reunion and loved spending time with them.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 6, 2018 at the Nauvoo Presbyterian Church in Nauvoo, Illinois where the family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 7, 2018 at the Nauvoo Presbyterian Church with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating.

Burial will be at Nauvoo City Cemetery. A memorial has been established in his memory to Nauvoo Fire and Rescue.

Schmitz-Banks and Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.sbbfuneral-home.com

GARY RISK

Gary Risk, 79, of Keokuk, IA, died Friday, August 31, 2018 at his home. He was born on May 9, 1939 in Quincy, IL, the son of Robert and Margaret Gruber Risk. He graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1957.



RISK

Gary enlisted in the United States Air Force in October of 1957 and proudly served his country for twenty years, five months and 30 days. He always said that during his time in the service he was a scope dope and flew computers. Gary retired in 1978 with the rank of Tech Sergeant.

On November 2, 1980, Gary was united in marriage to Linnie Martinez in Yuba City, CA. She survives.

He is also survived by three sons, Christopher Risk and wife Rebecca of Albuquerque, NM, Timothy Risk and wife Herdie of Omaha NE, Joe Risk and wife Michelle of Kearney, NE, three daughters, Mary Shipler and husband Robert of Keokuk, Lin Fiorentine of Youngstown, OH and Katie Cook and husband Michael of Roanoke, TX, thirteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one sister, Bobbi Jo Uyemura of Keokuk and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandson, Aleque Risk.

Gary enjoyed playing computer games and working on jigsaw puzzles. He loved his rescue dog, Bert, who was his faithful companion and friend. Above all, Gary loved his family and spending time with them was his greatest joy.

Services will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Lee County Hospice.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

EDWARD KRAMER

Edward Kramer, 73, of Missouri and formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 in Elsberry, Mo.

He was born on March 24, 1945 in Ft. Madison to Louis and Rose Fraise Kramer. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam Conflict. He was a member of the VFW.

Survivors include one sister, Donna Rehm of Lake Kiowa, TX; four brothers, Kenneth (Noma) Kramer of West Point, Gary (Deb) Kramer of Ft. Madison, Keith (Sheryl) Kramer of Jensen Beach, FL and Kurt Kramer of Ft. Madison, IA ; several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Soldiers’ Circle, Oakland Cemetery. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Sports/Opinion



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Korbin Wilson gets thrown from a calf in the Lil' Spurs Rodeo Monday morning at the Tri-State Rodeo's pre-rideo event. Below Barret Speck corrals a goat, looking to remove the tie from its tail as part of the goat-tail tie event. #trsfamilytradition



OPINION

Birthday dinner goes out with a bang

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

jacket. I pulled it on, got out of the car and, in blinding rain, fumbled with the key to unlock a door. A booming flash of thunder and lightening nearly covered me, but I got the door open. I pulled the trip-cord on the garage door, and manually raised it. Rain nearly blew me over, but I got the car pulled in. We were safe in a dark home. Buddy was buried in a closet. I found flashlights and, in a break in the rain, headed out to check on Blossom, our heifer calf, and the chickens.

Blossom was out! She was standing outside her pen, in the dark, seemingly confused. Fortunately, I was able to get her back in and secure for the night. In the mayhem, she had somehow managed to get a gate unchained and pushed open. I would fix those gates in the morning. The chickens were all accounted for and safe up high in their hen house, roosting,

but full of burring warnings. Whitey, our brood hen, was sitting tight on her dozen fertilized eggs. All was safe on the Empty Nest Farm. Now it was just a matter of waiting out the storm and dark night.

Sometime later the power flickered a couple of times, but came back on.

In the morning there was 3.5 inches of rain in the rain gauge. I have never seen that much rain in the gauge. It characteristically reads low. Official reports indicated six inches of rain. Facebook was full of storm-disaster pictures and stories. Fortunately, no one was killed at the Old Thresher's Campground in Mt. Pleasant.

Ginnie has brought a calming of the storms in my life. But weather-wise, it was some birthday celebration, one we will both remember. "When was that storm? Oh, yes. Ginnie's birthday."

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Fort Madison
Community School
District
1930 Avenue M
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting
August 20, 2018**

I. The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:01 p.m. Directors Hope, Ross, DiPrima and Young were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater, Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon and Secretary Elmore. Director Hotop was absent.

II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Reading of Foundation documents. The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications

A. Curriculum Corner. Greg Smith addressed the Board regarding a new program available at the High School through a partnership with SCC and Silgan entitled 12 Plus.

C. Superintendent Goal Report. Superintendent Slater stated that the District would again track the indicators of progress towards the Board's established goals. Charts will be posted in all buildings and the Board will receive updates.

E. District Presentations High School Program – Greg Smith presented during Curriculum Corner. Board candidate application – Brian Steffensmeier reviewed his responses to the Board Candidate questionnaire.

V. Approve the agenda. It was moved by Young and seconded by Ross to approve the agenda as amended. Item VIII B3 Board Self-Evaluation was deleted and will be brought back at a future meeting. The motion

passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

VI. Consent agenda. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the July 16, 2018 regular meeting, the July 24, 2018 special meeting; financial reports for the monthly balance sheet, revenue summary sheet, expenditure report and activity report, accounts payable for the July weekly warrants, August computer warrants, activity warrants and nutrition fund; resignations from Melissa Spoores, associate at Lincoln Elementary, Christian Dunn, associate at Richardson Elementary, Bobbie Zemlicka, associate Richardson, Michelle Slater, associate at the Middle School, Matt Jones, 8th grade girls basketball coach, Chad Hannum, asst. boys track coach, Coy Dorothy, asst. football coach, Christian Boyer, Middle School boys basketball coach, Karen Jones as freshman class advisor, Mike Schneider, asst. varsity boys track coach and Linda Martinez, food service at the High School, Cyrena Durham, bus driver and Don Horton, bus driver; employment of Dominique Akpore, 7th/8th Social Studies teacher, Kimberly Hobbs, Special Education teacher at Richardson Elementary, Erin Slifer, TLS Coordinator, Denise Osbon, Special Education teacher at Richardson Elementary, Megan Kruse, ELA Instructional coach, Dana Smith, junior class sponsor, Chad Hannum, varsity boys track coach (1/2), Mike Schneider, varsity track coach (1/2), Dawn Schulte, Middle School track coach, Charlie Knipe, Middle School girls basketball coach, Chad Bowen, 7th grade boys basketball coach; contract modifications for Geraldine Zumdom, increase in hours and salary. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

VII. Action Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services.

B. Superintendent.

1. Consider approval of Salary Lists

a. AFSCME Associates/Secretaries. It was moved by Hope and seconded by DiPrima to approve the AFSCME Associates/Secretaries salary list as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

b. Unit 1 Bus Drivers. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve the Unit 1 Bus Drivers salary list as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

c. Summer season extracurricular coaching contracts. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve the summer season extracurricular coaching contract salary list as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

d. Summer season supplemental letters of assignment. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the summer season supplemental letters of assignment salary list as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

2. Consider approval of Handbooks

a. Support Staff Handbook 2018-2019. The Board reviewed the Support Staff handbook. Discussion followed. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Young to approve the Support Staff handbook as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

3. Consider approval of policy changes

a. 507.5 – Emergency Plans and Drills. It was moved by Young and seconded by Hope to approve policy #507.5 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

b. 507.10 – Special Education Support Services. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the deletion of policy #506.10 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0

voice vote.

c. 710.4 – Meal Charges.

It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy #710.4 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager.

1. Appointment of candidate to fill Board vacancy seat – Oath of Office administered. It was moved by Young and seconded by Hope to approve the appointment of Brian Steffensmeier as Director of the Fort Madison Community School District to replace Director Jillian Troxel. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote. The Oath of Office was administered and Director Steffensmeier responded to the oath with "I will". Enter Steffensmeier: 6:41 p.m.

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services

B. Superintendent.

1. Policies for 1st Reading. The Board reviewed policy #700 – 704.2. These policies will be brought back to a future meeting for final approval.

2. Board member attendance. The Board reviewed and discussed the board member attendance report.

3. Board Self-Evaluation. This item was deleted and will be brought back at a later date.

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager.

IX. Comments from the audience. There were none.

X. Legislative update. The Board received a legislative update and reviewed the Legislative Priorities

that were submitted to the Iowa Association of School Boards.

XI. Announcements.

September 17, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Regular board meeting at Central Office

October 1, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Work session at Central Office

October regular meeting TBD, all dates will be set at the organizational meeting on

September 17th.

November 14-16, 2018, IASB Annual Convention, Des Moines

XII. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Tim Wondra, Board President

August 20, 2018

Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary

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From the Front/Weather

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YOUTH - Continued from Page 1



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Right out of the chute, Everly Britton gets grabbed before falling off a lamb during the Mutton Bustin' event at the Lil' Spurs Rodeo Monday afternoon.

But neither the precipitation or the lingering effects in the 88 degree heat dampened the spirits of area children falling off sheep and getting bucked off calves, pulling ties off goat-tails, riding stick horses around barrels, or chasing greased pigs.

Fedler said the Lil' Spurs committee and the radio are using a hashtag #tsrfamilytradition to corral marketing for events associated with Tri-State Rodeo.

The online registration caused a few problems for the committee. Fedler said registrations for Lil' Spurs events are made through the rodeo's online site at www.tristaterodeo.org and this year things were a little more troublesome than previous years, but the committee is looking hard at rectifying those issues for next year's events.

He said the volunteers helped pull everything together to put on another great event for 2018.

"This was one of the smoothest shows we've put on in a while," he said. "We had outstanding participation for kids and from the volunteers," Fedler said. "You cannot thank enough these volunteers and our sponsors. There are a lot of people behind the scenes that are just there and there are just not enough thank yous for everyone involved."

Lil' Spurs has been a jumping off point for many rodeo participants at many levels. Fedler said it's not uncommon for individuals who participate by riding a sheep or a calf, to be seen at other events as they get older, including riding in the Professional Rodeo Cow-

boys Association.

"We've had kids that start in Lil' Spurs and come back as part of the PRCA," Fedler said. "It's our 26th year and we've seen riders from the time they start until the professional circuit."

We've seen them have their first ride here on a lamb, come back as part of the high school rodeo, win it, and then go to the PRCA and come back here as a part of that and ride."

Fedler said all the facets of the rodeo are a result of community efforts and he's happy to help continue to bring this to the area.

"This is just about having the kids here, the families here, and the volunteers, and then getting everyone into the arena for the rodeo itself," Fedler said. "And it's not just the Lil' Spurs, it's the Special Kids...it's the faces in the arena and the rodeo itself. This brings you back to the reality that it's community that kicks in and gets out here to make sure the kids have fun."

Monday night wrapped up with the annual Lil' Miss Rodeo and All-Around Cowboy contest on the south end of the grand stand.

Holden Pezley, 6, son of Travis & Katelyn Pezley of Montrose was named All-Around Cowboy out of a field of three, while Cheyanna Turbin, 6, daughter of Jason & Tiffany Turpin of Columbia, Mo was named Lil' Miss Rodeo.

After Tuesday night's Pee Wee Barrel Races, full professional rodeo action kicks off in a big way Wednesday night with the all-in Cinch Shootout where cowboys, on an invitation-only basis, come to the arena to battle for more than \$100,000 in prize money, one of the highest purses in the midwest.

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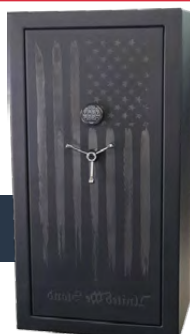
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Moderate Rain
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THU 06 Sep



Very Heavy Rain
High- 68.8° F | Low - 61.1° F

FRI 07 Sep



Moderate Rain
High- 69.7° F | Low - 65.0° F

SAT 08 Sep



Clear Skies
High - 72.3° F | Low - 56.9° F

SUN 09 Sep



Clear Skies
High- 73.9° F | Low - 57.1° F

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Sat., Sept. 8

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